COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 5, No. 9 November 30, 1968

BURKE TROPHY WINNER—Cdr. James G. Baker, Commanding Officer of the destroyer Frank Knox, receives the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy naming Knox top combat-ready ship in the Pacific Fleet from VAdm. Walter H. Baumberger, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in ceremonies at the San Diego Naval Station.

Procedures Given for Implementation Of Military Justice Act of 1968

When President Johnson signed the Military Justice Act of 1968 Oct. 24, he said the new law made many changes "to streamline the system, and to safeguard the serviceman."

Also, he noted that the bill, H.R. 15971, gives the serviceman first-class legal service and that it "goes to the root of the system they defend for all of us—the right of every citizen to justice and fairness under the law."

Since Oct. 24 the Military Justice Act of 1968 has become Public Law 90-632. The act goes into effect on Aug. 1, 1969, with the exception of two sections dealing with appellate review which already are in effect. The military services are preparing to implement the act.

The Manual for Courts-Martial is being rewritten by a committee of lawyers from the military services to implement the act. Their work will be completed when the law becomes effective.

The Secretary of the Army, Navy and Air Force will implement certain parts of the Military Justice Act of 1968 by regulation to suit the needs of his particular service. But these manual changes and regulations are not to be confused with those which will become effective on Jan. 1, 1969.

President Johnson on Sept. 11, 1968,

(Continued on Page 3)

Clifford Reports On Results of NATO Meetings

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford returned to Washington Nov. 16 and reported to newsmen on the results of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meetings held in Brussels, Belgium, Nov. 15-16.

"I think it was a very worthwhile trip that we had," Secretary Clifford told reporters on his arrival at Andrews AFB, Md., "and I come back comforted at the attitude of the European members of NATO and the plans that we have for increasing its strength and effectiveness.

"We will, of course, stay very close to the developments over the next years in order to be assured that plans that are now in the process of formulation will actually be carried out."

He said broad statements of policy were made during the North Atlantic Council Ministeriel meeting and termed the communique issued by the Council as "the best I can recall.

"I think it is more pointed. I think it is clearer. It states in very positive language the attitude of the NATO countries regarding Czechoslovakia, states their attitude very clearly about any possible future incursions of the Soviet Union," Secretary Clifford said.

Excerpts from the communique referred to by Secretary Clifford follow:

"(The) Ministers reaffirmed the inviolability of the principle, which has been invoked on numerous occasions by every country, including the USSR, that all nations are independent and that consequently any intervention by one state in the affairs of another is unlawful.

"They noted that this principle has been deliberately violated by the Soviet leaders with the backing of four of

(Continued on Page 3)

Ocean Floor Surveys by Submersibles Under Study

Surveys of the ocean floor, much of which has yet to be recorded on marine charts, may be done in the future by deep diving vehicles instead of by surface ships according to the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office.

For two years, scientists of this office have been checking out five of these manned submersibles, hoping to design a deep diving vehicle that can be used exclusively for surveying tasks.

Those under study include the ALVIN, STAR III, DEEPSTAR-4000, CUBMARINE and ALUMINAUT.

"Not one of the submersibles that we have looked at is the best for survey work and not one is the worst," reported Mr. Frank Busby, the chief scientist studying deep diving vehicles for the Oceanographic Office. "Each one has different features, some that are desirable and some that are not."

In experiments with ALUMINAUT, the fifth submersible to be tested, scientists went to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, and designed a specific test program to try its usefulness as a survey vehicle.

"This area," Mr. Busby said, "had already been surveyed by scientists of the Oceanographic Office from surface ships. We resurveyed the area in the submersible and compared the data gained by the surface ship and the submersible.

"The surface chart showed us that a smooth, gradual slope existed along the six-mile track of the survey area. But our observations from ALUMINAUT revealed rugged topography that was entirely missed by the ship's surveying equipment."

Principal instruments used on the ALUMINAUT were magnetometers to measure the intensity of the earth's magnetic field, stereo cameras to give panoramic views of the underwater terrain, and sub-bottom profiles to outline underlying geologic features.

"We used a specially-built side-scan sonar for the first time on a submersible during the August dives," Mr. Busby said. "The side-scan sonar system helped us to gain a detailed topographic representation of an area 400 feet deep."

To conduct the Puerto Rico survey, scientists anchored transponders (automated receiver-transmitters for sending acoustic signals when interrogated) at each corner of the 1,000-by-1,000 foot site.

After locating the transponders, which provided them with navigational fixes, the oceanographers surveyed the area for large features. When this initial survey was completed, they selected a 160-by-160 foot area within the site for a detailed survey capable of producing a chart contoured at intervals as small as one inch.

Coast Guard Establishes Office Of Research and Development

Discovering new concepts and developing technological improvements necessary to meet present and future requirements in marine science, search and rescue, aids to navigation and marine safety are the aims of an Office of Research and Development established by the Coast Guard Nov. 1.

Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Willard J. Smith named RAdm. Orvan R. Smeder as chief of the new office. Dr. Charles C. Bates, science advisor to the commandant, was designated as the deputy chief and chief scientist of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The R & D office is beginning with a staff of 39 military and civilian personnel and is expected to expand to 120 within the next three years. An initial appropriation of $4 million was approved for Fiscal Year 1969.

The organization will include National Data Buoy Project, Planning and Evaluation Staff, and Science Advisory Committees, as wel as three divisions.

The Applied Sciences Division will develop new equipment and facilities. The Applied Technology Division will develop and perfect prototypes, methods and processes relating to Coast Guard missions. The Human Resources Division will research and apply psychological and social scientific concepts to solve problems dealing with and to improve human behavior as it relates to the marine environment.

DACOWITS CHAIRMAN—Dr. Hester Turner has been named to a one-year term as Chairman of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, beginning Jan. 1. She succeeds Dr. Geraldine P. Woods in the non-salaried post.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

Published weekly by Armed Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD (M&RA). Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFPS).

SecDef Reports on NATO Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

their allies. World opinion has been profoundly shocked by this armed intervention carried out against the wishes of the government and people of Czechoslovakia. All the members of the alliance have denounced this use of force which jeopardizes peace and international order and strikes at the principles of the United Nations Charter . . .

"The contention of the Soviet leadership that there exists a right of intervention in the affairs of other states deemed to be within a so-called 'socialist commonwealth' runs counter to the basic principles of the United Nations Charter, is dangerous to European security and has inevitably aroused grave anxieties . . .

"The use of force and the stationing in Czechoslovakia of Soviet forces not hitherto deployed there, have aroused grave uncertainty about the situation and about the calculations and intentions of the USSR . . .

"Applied to Germany the policies which the USSR derives from its doctrine of a so-called 'socialist commonwealth' raise new obstacles to the rapprochement and tultimate unification of the two parts of Germany. Moreover, they would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the four power agreements relating to Germany as a whole.

"In this situation, and bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, the Ministers reaffirm the determination of the alliance to persevere in its efforts to contribute to a peaceful solution to the German question based on the free decision of the German people and on the interests of European security . . .

"The members of the alliance urge the Soviet Union, in the interests of world peace, to refrain from using force and interfering in the affairs of other states. Determined to safeguard the freedom and independence of their countries, they could not remain indifferent to any development which endangers their security.

"Clearly any Soviet intervention directly or indirectly affecting the situation in Europe or in the Mediterranean would create an international crisis with grave consequences.

Asked if the United States contemplated increasing or decreasing U.S. forces in NATO as a result of the NATO conference, Secretary Clifford said:

". . . We have over 300,000 troops in Western Europe. We do not contemplate increasing those forces or decreasing them. The type of additional effort that we are making has more to do with replacement of older planes . . . We have a program of building airplane shelters that we think is needed and very important. We are introducing some of our newest electronic measures into Europe. It is more along this line in improving the effectiveness of the forces and not in actually increasing our number of men."

Military Justice

(Continued from Page 1)

signed Executive Order 11430, prescribing the "Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, 1969." The effective date of the new manual was set for Jan. 1, 1969.

The new manual has the same basic arrangement as the Manual for Courts-Martial, 1951. One difference is that some of the paragraphs in the new manual have been further subdivided for better understanding and indexing of the subject matter, but for the most part the paragraphing in the new manual parallels that of the old.

The new manual and regulations going into effect Jan. 1, 1969, were written to bring up to date the rules covering the administration of military justice in accordance with court decisions since the last revision.

The new manual does not take account of the changes made in the UCMJ by the Military Justice Act of 1968.

ASTRONAUT WINGS—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell pins astronaut wings on Lt. Col. Donald R. Eisele at the Pentagon. Col. Eisele qualified for the badge on the Apollo 7 flight.

Warning to the U.S.S.R.

NATO MINISTERS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

The Ministerial Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization met in Brussels on November 15 and 16 for the first time since the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The Council is composed of the foreign, defense and finance ministers of the 15 Western allies.

At the close of their meeting they issued a communique warning the U.S.S.R. that "any Soviet intervention directly or indirectly affecting the situation in Europe or in the Mediterranean would create an international crisis with grave consequences." They also stated NATO policy on Germany, West Berlin, and East-West detente.

Commenting on the meeting when he returned from Brussels, Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford said "the most important result is in the increase of readiness of the NATO forces and the plans that we have over the next three years."

Here is the text of the communique, issued on November 16.

The North Atlantic Council met in ministerial session in Brussels on November 15 and 16. The meeting was attended by foreign, defense and finance ministers. The council had moved forward from mid-December its normal year-end meeting so that ministers might discuss at an earlier date the serious situation following the armed intervention in Czechoslovakia and the occupation of that country by forces of the Soviet Union and four of its Warsaw Pact allies.

"Socialist Commonwealth" Claim

Ministers reaffirmed the inviolability of the principle, which has been invoked on numerous occasions by every country, including the U.S.S.R., that all nations are independent and that consequently any intervention by one state in the affairs of another is unlawful.

They noted that this principle has been deliberately violated by the Soviet leaders with the backing of four of their allies. World opinion has been profoundly shocked by this armed intervention carried out against the wishes of the Government and people of Czechoslovakia. All the members of the alliance have denounced this use of force which jeopardizes peace and international order and strikes at the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Like all other peoples, the people of Czechoslovakia must be free to shape their future without outside interference. Agreements concluded under the pressure of occupying forces can provide no justification for challenging this basic concept.

The contention of the Soviet leadership that there exists a right of intervention in the affairs of other states deemed to be within a so-called "socialist commonwealth" runs counter to the basic principles of the United Nations Charter, is dangerous to European security and has inevitably aroused grave anxieties. It gives rise to fears of a further use of force in other cases.

The use of force and the stationing in Czechoslovakia of Soviet forces not hitherto deployed there have aroused grave uncertainty. This uncertainty demands great vigilance on the part of the allies.

Germany and the GDR

Applied to Germany, the policies which the U.S.S.R. derives from its doctrine of the so-called "socialist commonwealth" raise new obstacles to the rapprochement and ultimate unification of the two parts of Germany. Moreover, they would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the four-power agreements relating to Germany as a whole.

In this situation, and bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, the ministers reaffirm the determination of the alliance to persevere in its efforts to contribute to a peaceful solution of the German question based on the free decision of the German people and on the interests of European Security.

Their governments do not recognize the "G.D.R." [German Democratic Republic] and they reject all claims which would tend to perpetuate the division of Germany against the will of the German people.

Referring to their communique issued in Reykjavik on June 25, 1968, the ministers confirm the support of their governments for the declared determination of the three powers to safeguard Berlin's security and to maintain freedom of access to the city.

They recall the declaration of the North Atlantic Council of December 16, 1958, on Berlin and the responsibilities which each member state assumed with regard to the security and welfare of Berlin. They note with satisfaction the important measures taken by the Federal Republic of Germany in conformity with the status of Berlin for the purpose of maintaining the viability of the city.

They associate themselves with the position of the three powers as regards the legitimate concern of the federal government for the welfare and viability of Berlin and as regards the resulting ties which exist between the two on the basis of the arrangements in force.

The ministers associate themselves with the call made upon the Soviet Union by the three powers to respect the quadripartite agreements concerning Berlin and the decisions taken pursuant to these agreements by the United States, France and the United Kingdom.

The Mediterranean

The new uncertainties resulting from recent Soviet actions also extend to the Mediterranean Basin. This situation requires that the allies continue by every available means their efforts to promote stability and a just and equitable peace, as well as mutual cooperation and understanding, in the area.

The expansion of Soviet activity in the Mediterranean, including the increased presence of Soviet naval units, requires vigilance to safeguard allied security.

The members of the alliance urge the Soviet Union, in the interests of world peace, to refrain from using force and interfering in the affairs of other states.

Determined to safeguard the freedom and independence of their countries, they could not remain indifferent to any development which endangers their security.

Clearly any Soviet intervention directly or indirectly affecting the situation in Europe or in the Mediterranean would create an international crisis with grave consequences.

So long as the Soviet leaders adhere to a policy of force, these new uncertainties will remain. The allies are convinced that their political solidarity remains indispensable to discourage aggression and other forms of oppression. Above all, they stand wholly determined to meet their common responsibilities and, in accordance with the North Atlantic Treaty, to defend the members of the alliance against any armed attack.

Reassess NATO Defenses

The allies participating in NATO's integrated defense program have, therefore, been obliged to reassess the state of their defenses. They consider that the situation arising from recent events calls for a collective response.

The quality, effectiveness and deployment of NATO's forces will be improved in terms of both manpower and equipment in order to provide a better capability for defense as far forward as possible. The quality of reserve forces will also be improved and their ability to mobilize rapidly will be increased.

Renewed attention will be directed to the provision of reinforcements for the flanks and the strengthening of local forces there.

The conventional capability of NATO's tactical air forces will be increased. Certain additional national units will be committed to the major NATO commanders. Specific measures have been approved within these categories of action for improving the conventional capability of NATO's forces.

The ministers agreed that the coordinated implementation of these measures and the provision of additional budgetary resources to the extent necessary to support them would form part of the NATO force plan for 1969-1973 which will be submitted in January 1969.

They also acknowledged that the solidarity of the alliance can be strengthened by cooperation between members to alleviate burdens arising from balance of payments deficits resulting specifically from military expenditures for the collective defense.

East-West Détente

A year ago, the ministers affirmed in the report on the future tasks of the alliance that, while maintaining adequate military strength and political solidarity to deter any aggressor, the alliance should work to promote a policy of détente.

The Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia has seriously set back hopes of settling the outstanding problems which still divide the European Continent and Germany and of establishing peace and security in Europe, and threatens certain of the results already achieved in the field of détente.

Indeed, in view of the action of the five members of the Warsaw Pact, the scope and level of allied contacts with them have had to be reduced.

More specifically, prospects for mutual balanced force reductions have suffered a severe setback. Nevertheless, the allies in close consultation are continuing their studies and preparations for a time when the atmosphere for fruitful discussion is more favorable.

In any event, consistent with Western values, the political goal remains that of secure, peaceful and mutually beneficial relations between East and West.

The allies are determined to pursue this goal, bearing in mind that the pursuit of détente must not be allowed to split the alliance.

The search for peace requires progress, consistent with Western security, in the vital fields of disarmament and arms control and continuing efforts to resolve the fundamental issues which divide East and West.

Future of the Alliance

The North Atlantic Alliance will continue to stand as the indispensable guarantor of security and the essential foundation for the pursuit of European reconciliation.

By its constitution the alliance is of indefinite duration. Recent events have further demonstrated that its continued existence is more than ever necessary.

The Foreign Minister of France recalled that, for its part, unless events in the years to come were to bring about a radical change in East-West relations, the French Government considers that the alliance must continue as long as it appears to be necessary.

Air Force Explains Policy on Promotion of Physically Unfit

The Air Force has clarified its policy concerning a restriction affecting the promotion eligibility of officers, warrant officers and airmen who have been found physically unfit for military service.

The restriction pertains to temporary promotion of officers and warrant officers and permanent promotion of airmen.

The Air Force said personnel become ineligible for promotion when the Secretary of the Air Force determines that the member is unfit because of physical disability.

Secretarial determination is made after the boards and councils of the Physical Disability Evaluation System have acted on the case and made their recommendation for disposition of the member being evaluated.

Ineligibility occurs on the date of the secretarial determination and is effective that date regardless that a member may be on an announced promotion selection list awaiting promotion.

It was explained that effective dates of temporary promotion of officers in the grade of captain and above and warrant officers are announced at Headquarters USAF. Notification to consolidated base personnel offices of such members' ineligibility for promotion will be accomplished by message from Headquarters USAF, and the member's name will be deleted from the promotion selection list. The personnel office is responsible for immediate notification to the member concerned, the Air Force said.

The case of temporary promotion to first lieutenant and permanent promotion of all airmen (except grades E-8 and E-9) is somewhat different. These promotions are announced on special orders of major commands or below. When a medical board report on such personnel has been referred to a physical evaluation board, the servicing consolidated base personnel office will determine through appropriate channels five days before the effective date of promotion as to the member's eligibility for promotion. (Ref: Note under paragraph 13, AFR 36-89 and line 13, Table 1 of AFR 39-29, Promotion of Airmen, Jan. 19, 1968.)

The Air Force urged that officers, warrant officers and airmen who may become ineligible for promotion while being processed under the Physical Disability Evaluation System be given detailed counseling on the subject.

Research Submarine to Conduct Gulf Stream Study

Beginning early in 1969 at the Florida end of the Gulf Stream and concluding four weeks later at a point in the Stream off the Massachusetts coast, the Navy's research submarine Ben Franklin will carry the most sophisticated scientific equipment available for oceanographic work.

The Ben Franklin is owned and operated by the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation but most of its equipment was provided and equipped by the U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office. Several Naval oceanographers will go along on the Gulf Stream Drift Mission and it will provide the surface support ship.

The scientists, drifting with the Gulf Stream in the 50-foot, 130-ton Ben Franklin, will be able to measure the submersible's relative current speed and diversion from data supplied them by a current sensor system mounted on the top deck.

While living in the deep diving vehicle, which features a 36-man-week life support capability, the scientists will be able to view their surroundings from two external camera systems designed to provide stereo photographs of the sea floor and the 70 mm cameras integrated into a closed circuit television system for the observation of marine life and phenomena.

Also on board will be a narrow beam side-scan sonar to view the actual outline of the sea floor passed over by the submersible.

The scientists will use a water sensing pod to measure on magnetic tape continuous digital information on the temperature, salinity, depth and pressure of the water surrounding the deep diving vehicle.

A proton magentometer will provide the scientists with data on the magnetic field and local anomalies — irregularities in the magnetic field pattern.

Another system to be installed is a turbulence measurement instrument, which is expected to determine fluid velocity by temperature change and then produce for the scientists a profile of the current shear—the whirlpool-like turbulence where two opposing currents meet—from the top to the bottom of the vehicle.

Although the deep diving vehicle is equipped with four 25-horsepower AC electric motors, the submersible was designed to be propelled northward along the Gulf Stream by the current itself. This means of propulsion will provide the scientists with a noiseless research and observation platform that is expected to hover in mid-water for continuous observations of the same volume of ocean for the entire 4-week mission.

MEDAL OF HONOR—President Lyndon B. Johnson presents Medal of Honor awards to five Army men in White House ceremonies. Left to right are: SP4 Gary G. Wetzel; SP5 Dwight H. Johnson; Sgt. Sammy L. Davis; Capt. James A. Taylor, and Chaplain (Capt.) Angelo J. Liteky.

LBJ Praises U.S. Fighting Men at Medal of Honor Ceremony

President Johnson decorated five Medal of Honor winners at White House ceremonies Nov. 19 and, in his remarks, cautioned Americans that "other bitter days, and other battles, still lie ahead."

"I cannot emphasize strongly enough," President Johnson said, "that we have not attained peace—only the possibility of peace. We shall need in the days ahead all the courage, all the steadiness, and all the wisdom that the brilliant commander of these men, General Westmoreland, has evidenced throughout this terrible ordeal and that these men bring evidence of here today."

The President said "our hearts and our hopes are turned to peace as we assemble here in the East Room this morning. All of our efforts are being bent in its pursuit.

"But in this company we hear again, in our minds, the sound of distant battles. This room echoes once more to those words that describe the heights of bravery in war—above and beyond the call of duty.

"Five heroic sons of America come to us today," the President continued, "from the tortured fields of Vietnam—they come to remind us that so long as that conflict continues, our purpose and our hopes rest on the steadfast bravery of young men in battle.

"These five soldiers, in their separate moments of supreme testing, summoned a degree of courage that stirs wonder and respect and an overpowering pride in all of us.

"Through their spectacular courage, they set themselves apart in a very select company. They represent the contribution of more than a half million Americans to a world of order and of peace."

The President said "other brave men" will be called upon to perform other brave acts, before the search for peace yields a settlement at the conference table.

"But men like these," he said, "have brought us the distance that we have traveled. And men like these will see us the rest of the way.

"Freedom will be forever in their debt.

"And finally, that price for which all the world hungers will be their monument—the work of heroes who stood fast, when standing fast was really the only true way to a lasting and to an honorable peace."

State Dept. Begins New Pamphlet Series

The State Department has released the first pamphlet in a new series of publications, "Issues in United States Foreign Policy," prepared by the Bureau of Public Affairs as an aid in the study of foreign relations.

Title of the pamphlet is "The Middle East."

The State Department said the purpose of the new series is to assist in identifying the elements of international problems, rather than to propose solutions — to define questions rather than answers.

Emphasis is given not primarily to policy decisions, but to the context within which decisions must be made.

The 20-page illustrated pamphlet, "The Middle East," includes data on 23 countries in the region, a chronology of the Arab-Israeli dispute, and a brief history of the involvement in the regions of Great Britain, Russia and the United States.

Subjects of future "Issues" are expected to include Communist China, Food and Population, Foreign Aid, Liberal Trade vs. Protectionism, Latin America, NATO, East-West Trade, and others.

"The Middle East," Department of State publication 8409, is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, at 45 cents each. Orders of 100 or more copies sent to the same address are sold at 25 percent discount.

Sec. Resor Says South Viets Assuming Larger Role in War

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor believes that we have enabled the people of South Vietnam to establish a representative form of government that is now capable of assuming a greater share of the war in that country.

Speaking before the Association of the U. S. Army in Washington, Mr. Resor said, "The effectiveness of the South Vietnamese Government and its fighting forces has permitted us to level off our efforts—and, in due time, we expect to begin the gradual process of reduction."

He said in the past year the South Vietnamese Armed Forces have been steadily improving and the Vietnam Government has taken steps to significantly increase the size of their forces.

"Of greater significance is the overall improved level of performance. The Vietnamese regular, Regional and Popular Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Group units are now better trained and equipped—and their combat effectiveness has improved markedly."

Secretary Resor said one of these units has assumed responsibility for manning portions of the eastern sector of the demilitarized zone and has inflicted 10 times the casualties on the enemy forces that it has incurred itself.

"Much of this increase in capability and effectiveness is attributable to the accelerated program to provide the South Vietnamese with modern weapons and equipment."

More than 50,000 M-16 rifles were delivered to these forces in a three-month period beginning last July and are continuing to be delivered at a high rate. He said substantially all South Vietnamese Army combat battalions are now equipped with the M-16 as well as the Regional Forces and Popular Forces throughout the Saigon Military District. Most of the M-16 shipments the rest of this year will go to Regional and Popular Forces and "promises a greater return than perhaps any other alternative use of resources."

He said our advisory efforts also have been increased. More than 200 mobile teams move from unit to unit instructing the Vietnamese Forces in the care and use of weapons and in small unit tactics.

In addition the province advisors now have an increased tour of duty of 18 months after extensive training in language and political, social and economic training.

He said, "At the same time as the South Vietnamese have enlarged their contribution to military operations in Vietnam, the effectiveness of U. S. military forces has steadily improved as a result of various efforts originated by General William C. Westmoreland and continued by General Creighton W. Abrams Jr.

"There has been a significant increase in our intelligence of the enemy," said the Secretary. This has resulted from the improved use and integration of information from the many existing intelligence systems, from more information from prisoners of war and ralliers, and more information volunteered by the civilian populace.

"Secondly, in the last year the number of helicopters has increased by 50 percent. This gives us a great mobility advantage over the enemy.

"Lastly, during the past year we have increased emphasis on small unit and long range patrols and on night operations."

He said the Viet Cong have for some time experienced difficulty in recruiting and their numbers have decreased significantly since June of 1967. "As a result, the enemy has fewer men familiar with the local terrain and with guerrilla tactics. In addition, the larger percentage of North Vietnamese increases the logistics burden of the enemy, who are less able to rely on local sources of supply.

"The combined effect of the South Vietnamese modernization program, the gradual improvement of their combat units, the increasingly effective performance of our forces and the decline in the numbers of Viet Cong is to create a situation in which, from the point of view of the military position, time is on our side."

CHANGE OF COMMAND—Maj. Gen. Oscar F. Peatross (left) accepts the colors of Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., from Maj. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson during the November change of command ceremony. The parade adjutant, Maj. P. J. Ryan, salutes as the colors are passed.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1968 342-469 / A-23

War

ear the
creased
a great
enemy.
ear we
all unit
n night

ve for
ulty in
ave de-
une of
ny has
local
ics. In
ge of
logis-
no are
rces of

South
gram,
their
effec-
s and
Viet
which,
litary

the
Gen.
The